

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, relative to an increase of Salaries of the Clerks in that Department.

MAY 10, 1836.

Read, ordered to be printed, and referred to Committee on Finance.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 7, 1836.*

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the United States, of the 25th ultimo, requiring the several heads of the Executive Departments to report their several and respective opinions upon the justice and propriety of increasing the compensation of all or any of the clerks in their respective Departments, I have the honor to state, in behalf of the Navy Department, that, in my last annual report, I took the liberty of soliciting that the salaries of the chief clerk of the Navy Board, and of the warrant clerk, and of the clerk keeping the register of correspondence of this Department, should be increased, so that the first might receive the sum of \$1,700 per annum, and the others \$1,400 each. The first now receives \$1,600, and the others \$1,000 each, per annum.

I selected the cases of these clerks, to be laid before Congress, because the inadequacy of their compensation, compared with their services, was more apparent than in any other cases in the Department. Their services are arduous, and I may say, from my own observation, they fully merit the increase of compensation recommended. I must be permitted again to solicit that their salaries be increased to the sums formerly stated.

In my opinion, the salaries of the clerks in this Department, including those of the Navy Board, now less than a thousand dollars, should be increased to a thousand dollars, and those between a thousand and twelve hundred, should be increased to twelve hundred dollars; and I respectfully solicit that they be so increased.

Should this arrangement be adopted, the salaries of the clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Navy will be as follows:

The salary of the chief clerk, as at present	-	\$2,000
“ of the corresponding clerk, as at present	-	1,600
“ of the register of the navy, as at present	-	1,400

The salary of the corresponding and recording clerk, as at present	-	\$1,400
" of the register of correspondence, increased from	-	\$1,000 to 1,400
" of the warrant clerk, increased from	-	1,000 to 1,400
" of the corresponding clerk, increased from	-	1,000 to 1,200
" of recording and copying clerk, increased from	-	800 to 1,000
" of the clerk of the navy pension, hospital, and privateer pension funds, as at present	-	1,600

In the office of the Navy Commissioners, the salaries of the clerks will be as follows :

The salary of the Secretary of the Board, as at present	\$2,000
" of the chief clerk, increased from	\$1,600 to 1,700
" of the 2d clerk	" - 1,150 to 1,200
" of the 3d clerk	" - 1,000 to 1,200
" of the 4th clerk	" - 1,000 to 1,200
" of the 5th clerk	" - 1,000 to 1,200
" of the 6th clerk	" - 1,000 to 1,200
" of the draughtsman, considered as a clerk	" - 1,000 to 1,200

The clerks in this Department now receiving \$1,400 salary and upwards, feel severely, as others do, the decreased value of money, and the increased expense of living in this District; and that their salaries are of much less value to them than when fixed by law; for which circumstances they are entitled to some consideration; and the chief clerk of this Department, although not urging an increase of compensation, is subjected to a like inconvenience in the reduction of the value of his salary. The important trusts committed to his care, the ability with which he performs his duties, and his long and faithful services, give him a strong claim upon the liberality of the Government.

I take this opportunity of expressing my entire satisfaction in the faithfulness and diligence with which the duties of all the clerks in my Department are performed; and it affords me satisfaction to state that, in the Secretary's office, for the last two years, not a dollar has been paid for extra clerk hire, although the pressure of business has frequently been such as to render the extra labor of the clerks absolutely necessary; and which, on their part, has always been submitted to with the greatest cheerfulness.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. DICKERSON.

HON. MARTIN VAN BUREN,

President of the Senate of the United States.